



The New Piper Aircraft, Inc.  
2926 Piper Drive  
Vero Beach, Florida, U.S.A. 32960

# SERVICE No. 1003 BULLETIN

## PIPER CONSIDERS COMPLIANCE MANDATORY

DATE: June 16, 1997

(M)

**SUBJECT:**

**Wing Spar Splice Plate Replacement**

**MODELS AFFECTED:**

PA-31, 31-300, 31-325 Navajo  
PA-31-350 Navajo Chieftain  
PA-31-350 T1020

**SERIAL NUMBERS AFFECTED:**

31-2 through 31-8312019  
31-5001 through 31-8452021  
31-8253001 through 31-8553002

**COMPLIANCE TIME:**

Upon reaching 2500 hours time in service, or at the next regularly scheduled maintenance event not to exceed one hundred (100) hours time in service.

**APPROVAL:**

The technical content of this Service Bulletin has been approved by the Federal Aviation Administration. (F.A.A.)

**PURPOSE:**

Reports have been received from the civil aviation authorities in Australia of a condition where fretting and corrosion have been discovered on the wing spar splice plate at the radius of the bend hidden by the installation of the plate. While the extent of this fretting and corrosion may not be severe, detection is only possible by removing the splice plate. To remedy this condition Piper has developed a kit which includes the splice plate, hardware, materials and instructions for an improved installation. Left uncorrected, the structural integrity of the wing splice plate may be compromised with the resultant loss of wing load carrying capability.

This Service Bulletin announces the availability of model specific Kits which, when installed, will relieve the condition described above.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Install the Main Spar Splice Plate Replacement (Lower) Kit, Piper Part Number 766-640 on PA-31, 31-300, 31-325 Navajo or Main Spar Splice Plate Replacement (Lower) Kit, Piper Part Number 766-641 on PA-31-350 Navajo Chieftain and PA-31-350 T1020. All the materials and instructions necessary to comply with this Service Bulletin are contained in the afore mentioned kits.
2. Upon successful installation of the referenced kit, make an appropriate logbook entry of compliance with this Service Bulletin.

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**MATERIAL REQUIRED:** One (1) each, Main Spar Splice Plate Replacement (Lower) Piper Part Number 766-640 (for PA-31, 31-300, 31-325 Navajo) or Main Spar Splice Plate Replacement (Lower) Piper Part Number 766-641 (for PA-31-350 Navajo Chieftain and PA-31-350 T1020).

**AVAILABILITY OF PARTS:** Your Piper Field Service Facility.

**EFFECTIVITY DATE:** This Service Bulletin is effective upon receipt.

**SUMMARY:** There is no applicable factory participation for this Service Bulletin.

Please contact your Factory Authorized Piper Field Service Facility to make arrangements for compliance with this Service Bulletin in accordance with the Compliance Time indicated.

**NOTE:** If you are no longer in possession of this aircraft, please forward this information to the present owner/operator and notify the factory of address/ownership corrections. Changes should include aircraft model, serial number, current owner's name and address.

Corrections/Changes should be directed to:

The New Piper Aircraft, Inc.  
ATTN: Customer Services  
2926 Piper Drive  
Vero Beach, FL 32960